

Standards for Hazardous Materials Teams

SERC Working Group

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Definition

- “A Group of employees who are expected to perform responses to releases, or possible releases, of hazardous substances for the purpose of control and stabilization. As a result of their duties, HAZMAT team members may have close contact with hazardous substances.”
 - *WAC 296-824-800*



Response Levels

- Level One:
 - Local responders manage incident based on training, equipment and expertise.
 - If local abilities exhausted, mutual aid agreements implemented.
 - Department of Ecology/private contractors contacted.
 - Phone consultations



- Level Two:
 - On site assessment



- Level Three:
 - Technician level entry into “Danger Area” required



- Level Four:
 - Major incident
 - Additional resources beyond local and mutual aid
 - State EOC contacted
 - Mobilization requested
 - State and Federal Assets



Regional approach

Level One:

Local responders manage incident based on training, equipment and expertise.

If local abilities exhausted, mutual aid agreements implemented.

Department of Ecology/private contractors contacted.

On scene incident commander (OSIC) may request phone consultation from regional on-call hazmat team leader



- Level Two:
 - On scene incident commander (OSIC) requests on-site assessment.
 - On call hazmat team leader approves the request and determines number of responders (one to two) to assess the scene with appropriate equipment



- Level Three:
 - Technician level entry into “Danger Area” required
 - Team dispatched in conjunction with OSIC and HazMat team leader
 - Six minimum
 - Two Entry
 - Two Backup
 - One Safety
 - One Team Leader



- Level Four:
 - The Same



Issues

- Number of responders
 - Not all hazmat incidents are treated the same
 - Six inadequate in some areas
 - Lack of Operations-Level Support
 - Decon and other support may need to be called in
 - Strike Teams
 - Single resources



- Inventory of what's in the state
 - Get a better idea of response capabilities
 - Include local, state, federal, military and industrial response teams
 - Environmental cleanup companies



- Specialized skills and knowledge
 - Ammonia response team further away with technical expertise may be more capable of dealing with an incident than a closer response agency



- Private Industry role
 - Industrial teams
 - Environmental Cleanup Companies



State Mobe

- Where does it begin?
 - Level Two with on site assessment request
 - Level Three with Team dispatch
 - Level Four with major incident



- Payment under state mobilization
 - Identify costs per responder and equipment
 - Coordination of cost recovery from RP
 - Assist locals with cost recovery



Where do we go from here?

- Mobilization
 - Inventory of available resources
 - Costs of resources
 - Decon strike teams
 - HazMat Teams
 - Technical resources



- Regional Response
- State-wide response



Proposed Criteria

- Regulatory compliance
 - Each team shall comply with all local, state and federal regulations including WAC 296-824 and 29 CFR 1910.120



- Training standards
 - Nationally recognized standards such as NFPA 472, *Standard for Professional Compliance of Responders to Hazardous Materials Incidents* shall be used.



- Certifications:
 - All team members shall have a minimum HazMat Technician certification. HazMat instructors shall have instructor certification as well as certification in subject matter being taught. Team leaders shall have On-Scene Incident Command certification.



- Response capability:
 - Each team shall maintain a minimum response capability. *The state shall develop minimum response capability standards using NFPA 471, Recommended Practice for Responding to Hazardous Materials Incidents as a guide.*
 - Appropriate training and equipment shall support all response capabilities



- Staffing:
 - Each team shall maintain an appropriate number of technicians, specialists, team leaders and support staff to provide a minimum staffing level of 6 personnel including one team leader. The level of response will be solely based on the Tier Level of the incident



- Questions or comments?

